

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 15-21 and new claim 22 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to set forth the elongated opening more specifically with the elongated opening having spaced parallel sides with notches extending transversely of the parallel sides and for at least the length of the parallel sides.

New claim 22 is a combination of claim 1 (as amended) and claims 11 and 12 with the bead being set forth more specifically.

The Examiner's proposal for the first 4 lines of claim 1 have been used. Further, claims 4 and 8 have been amended as suggested.

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15, 19, and 20 were rejected as anticipated by Seibold (U.S. Patent 5, 435,107).

The Seibold reference is directed to repairing an attachment for an outer façade element to a load-bearing concrete member. As shown in Fig. 2 the plate 15 has an arched bearing surface 16 so that crooked bracing of the jack 12 cannot occur. There is no disclosure of notches (6, 7) as in claims 1 and 22 and complementary notches (69.1, 69.2) on a fastening element for engagement.

The drilled hole 20 in the support plate 15 is not an elongated opening with parallel sides as in claims 1 and 22. There is no central web 19 in the applicants' arrangement between arched bearing surfaces 16. While Seibold provides a structure for a specific purpose not a connecting element for an assembly system a person skilled in the art would not be directed to the applicants' solution based on Seibold. Further, there is nothing in Seibold to suggest the connecting element for

an assembly system having a bead formed in the connecting element where the bead includes the elongated opening with notches formed in the bead walls.

Therefore, in view of the amendments to the claims and new claim 22 it is respectfully submitted that the applicants' claims are allowable and a favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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